

INDUCED ABORTIONS

Induced terminations of pregnancy (abortions) have been reported to the department since July 1, 1974, when the Montana Abortion Control Act was implemented. States no longer report induced abortions to the National Center for Health Statistics and few states exchange resident abortion statistics. For these reasons, national abortion rates are estimates based on incomplete reporting and Montana's complete resident abortion statistics are unknown. The statistics provided in this report are for those abortions occurring in Montana, and any references to Montana residents must be viewed as incomplete. **Figure 63** shows the ratio of abortions performed in Montana to live births delivered in Montana since 1975.

Beginning in 1975, the first full year of reporting, and continuing on to the early eighties, the ratio of abortions performed in Montana to the number of live-born babies delivered in the state increased rapidly; the ratio was 129.9 in 1975 and rose to a peak of 295.6 in 1983. From 1983 through 1999, it has trended slightly downward but varied unpredictably from year to year. The ratio was 232.5 in 1999.

Figure 63

RATIO OF INDUCED ABORTIONS TO LIVE BIRTHS MONTANA OCCURRENCES, 1975-1999

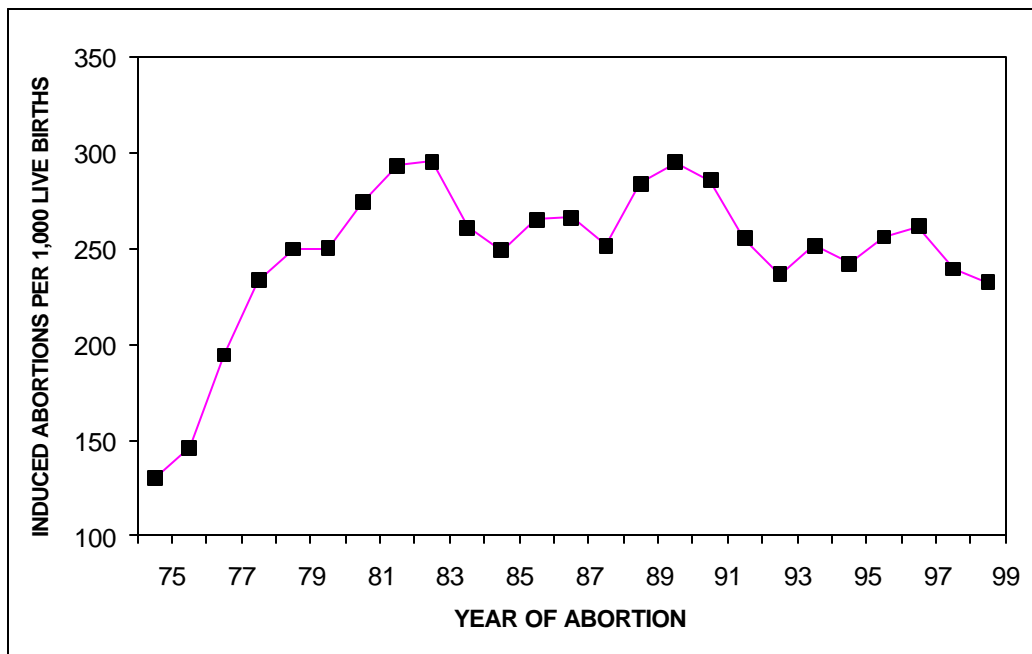


Table 14 displays Montana occurrence abortions by the patient's total previous pregnancies and number of previous induced abortions for 1999.

The frequency of induced abortion in 1999 is also tabulated by age of patient (**Table 15**) and by gestational age and procedure used for termination (**Table 16**).

Table 17 displays Montana occurrence abortions by county of occurrence, Montana county of residence, and state or country of residence.

There were no deaths, attributable to the procedure of abortion, of women receiving abortions in Montana in 1999. Such has been the case in Montana since 1974.

Eight of the 2,499 procedures performed in Montana in 1999 resulted in reported complications: three with infections, two with retained products, one with hemorrhage, one with cervical laceration, and one with an unspecified complication.